

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of using a shaped article to apply at least one skeleton-forming agent to an external skin and/or hair surface of a human or an animal, the method comprising:

- step (a) providing a molded, freeze-dried, shaped article having a volume of from approximately 0.1 cm^3 to approximately 6 cm^3 and a diameter of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 60 mm, wherein said shaped article comprises the at least one skeleton-forming agent but does not contain any protein-based skeleton-forming agents;
- step (b) contacting the shaped article with an aqueous solution to form a solution or a gel;
and
- step (c) applying the solution or the gel formed in the contacting step to the external skin and/or hair surface of the human or the animal.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article exhibits a geometrical shape of a sphere prior to the contacting step.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b), the shaped article is contacted with an aqueous solution comprising one or more selected from the group consisting of active substances and auxiliary substances.

Claims 11-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the aqueous solution comprises ~~an~~ one or more active ~~substance~~ substances selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the auxiliary substance is selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article further comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of active substances and auxiliary substances.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein the shaped article comprises one or more active ~~substance~~ substances selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein the shaped article comprises ~~an~~ one or more auxiliary ~~substance~~ substances selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article further comprises squalane.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein in step (b), the aqueous solution comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of active substances and auxiliary substances.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the aqueous solution comprises ~~an~~ one or more active ~~substance~~ substances selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.